CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of operating a printer comprising:

    monitoring content of one or more documents that are to be printed on a printer, said monitoring taking place within a printer that is to print the one or more documents;

    determining whether the monitored content is of interest to an organization of which the printer comprises a part; and

    generating a notification if the content is of interest to the organization.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving and analyzing a data stream in the printer, the data stream pertaining to the one or more documents that are to be printed.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises ascertaining whether the content includes one or more keywords or phrases.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises ascertaining whether the content comprises a particular structure.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said generating comprises generating a notification that includes at least a portion of the content that is of interest to the organization.

6. A method of operating a printer comprising:

    providing a context-analyzer within a printer;

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receiving a data stream into the printer, the data stream representing a document that is to be printed by the printer;

providing a data stream to the context-analyzer; and

analyzing the provided data stream with the context-analyzer to ascertain one or more contexts associated with the data stream.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said providing of the context-analyzer comprises delivering the context-analyzer to the printer via a network.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said providing of the context-analyzer comprises delivering the context-analyzer in the form of an applet to the printer via a network.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said analyzing comprises using a structure detector that is configured to analyze the data stream so that it can ascertain a structure associated with a document that is to be printed.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said analyzing comprises using a keyword detector that is configured to analyze the data stream so that it can ascertain one or more keywords or phrases that appear in a document that is to be printed.

11. The method of claim 6 further comprising self-replicating the context-analyzer to other printers on a network.

12. The method of claim 11, said self-replicating comprises:

seeking out other network printers;

copying the context-analyzer; and

providing at least one copy of the context-analyzer to the other network printers.

13. The method of claim 6 further comprising reporting on the context of the data stream.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said reporting comprises reporting context information to a computing entity.

15. A method of operating a printer comprising:

defining a document profile;

programming a context-analyzer with the document profile;

providing the context-analyzer within a printer;

receiving a data stream with the context-analyzer, the data stream being associated with a document that is to be printed by the printer;

analyzing the data stream with the context-analyzer; and

determining whether the data stream meets the document profile within some degree of certainty.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising generating a notification if the document profile is met.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said programming occurs after said providing.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said defining of the document profile comprises doing so using one or more keywords or phrases.

19. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a printer, cause the printer to:

monitor content of one or more documents that are to be printed on a printer;

determine whether the monitored content is of interest to an organization; and

generate a notification if the content is of interest to the organization.

20. The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions cause the printer to determine whether the content is of interest by comparing document content with one or more defined profiles that describe information that is of interest to the organization.

21. An apparatus comprising:

at least one printer; and

a context-analyzer resident in said at least one printer and configured to monitor content of one or more documents that are to be printed on the printer and determine whether the content is of interest to an organization of which the printer comprises a part.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the context-analyzer is configured to generate a notification if the content is of interest to the organization.

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23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the context-analyzer is configured to self-replicate itself to other printers across a network to which the at least one printer has access.

24. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

at least one other printer having a context-analyzer; and

a network configured to establish a communication link between the printers.

25. An apparatus comprising:

at least one printer; and

a context-analyzer resident in the printer and configured to:

receive a data stream within the printer, the data stream representing a document that is to be printed by the printer; and

analyze the data stream to ascertain one or more contexts associated with the data stream.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the context-analyzer is configured to analyze the data stream by using a structure detector to detect a structure of a document that is to be printed.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the context-analyzer is configured to analyze the data stream by using a keyword detector that is configured to analyze a data stream so that it can ascertain one or more keywords or phrases that appear in a document that is to be printed.

28. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

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at least one other printer having a context-analyzer; and

a network configured to establish a communication link between the printers.

29.   The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said context-analyzer is configured to self-replicate itself to other printers on the network.

30.   An architecture comprising:

one or more context-analyzers, each of which being configured to:

receive a data stream within a printer, the data stream representing a document that is to be printed by the printer; and

analyze the data stream to ascertain one or more contexts associated with the data stream.

31.   The architecture of claim 30, wherein the context-analyzers are configured to generate a notification based on the context of a data stream.

32.   The architecture of claim 30, wherein the context-analyzers are configured to analyze the data stream by comparing content of the data stream with one or more profiles defining information of interest.